National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Responding to health impacts of climate change in the Australian desert

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Year: 2008
Journal: Rural and Remote Health. 8 (3): 1008

Abstract:

Climate change is likely to have a significant effect on the health of those living in the 70% of Australia that is desert. The direct impacts on health, such as increased temperature, are important. But so too are the secondary impacts that will occur as a result of the impact of climate change on an uncertain and highly variable natural environment and on the interlinking social and economic systems. The consequence of these secondary impacts will appear as changes in the incidence of disease and infections, and on the psychosocial determinants of health. Responding to the impacts of climate change on health in desert Australia will involve the active participation of a variety of interest groups ranging from local to state and federal governments and a range of public and private agencies, including those not traditionally defined as within the health sector. The modes of engagement required for this process need to be innovative, and will differ among regions on different trajectories. To this end, a first classification of these trajectories is proposed.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Temperature

Air Pollution: Dust, Particulate Matter

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding, Wildfires, Other Extreme Event

Extreme Weather Event (other): Dust storms

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Desert

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Australasia

Health Co-Benefit/Co–Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

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Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Cardiovascular Effect, Dermatological Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Campylobacteriosis, Salmonellosis, Other Diarrheal Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease (other): meningococcal (epidemic) meningitis

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Mood Disorder

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Acute respiratory infection

Other Health Impact: Heatstroke; Heat cramps; Heat exhaustion

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Aboriginal populations

Other Vulnerable Population: Pre-existing health conditions

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ☑

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

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